

be in support of a budget reconciliation package that is part of a broken budget process in need of serious reform? And why would we support a budget reconciliation process that is part of an overtly partisan failed strategy, a strategy that will fail the House majority leadership and would fail the American people if Blue Dogs did not stand firmly against it.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand firmly against it as well and vote "no" on the budget reconciliation bill.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT A GOOD FIRST STEP FOR AMERICA

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, earlier today, my good friend RAHM EMANUEL, a Democrat from Illinois, said, "Tomorrow the House will vote on America's future, with an \$8 trillion national debt and with a Congress that spent \$60 billion in 6 days without a thought as to how we were going to pay for it." I could not agree more.

The gentleman from Illinois went on to say, "Where else could we cut food stamps and Medicaid?" and he answered, "With a Republican Congress" and a lament.

And I would ask, where else but in Washington, DC could a deficit reduction act that actually increases entitlements by 6.3 percent, instead of the planned 6.4 percent, be called a cut? The budget cuts we will pass tomorrow, let me say again, will still increase spending in Medicaid student loans and aid to dependent families. As a conservative, as some of my Blue Dog colleagues have said, I do not think this deficit reduction act goes nearly far enough to do right by those children and grandchildren that we raise. But it is a good first step. It is a modest start in the direction of putting our fiscal house in order. I urge my Republican and Democrat colleagues of goodwill to support it.

□ 1030

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Federal budget is about priorities. And with this budget, Republicans have their priorities all wrong. As an example, The Washington Post reports that young people from rural America are shouldering a disproportionate burden of the war in Iraq. Why? Rural Americans are increasingly willing to risk dying in this Iraqi quagmire to improve their chances of paying for college and getting a decent paying job.

More than 44 percent of military recruits now come from rural areas. Only

14 percent come from American cities. Also, many military recruits are financially strapped. Nearly 50 percent of them come from lower-middle-class to poor households. In 2004, nearly two-thirds of Army recruits came from counties in which median household income is below the U.S. median.

Why do I tell you this? Because the response of this Republican-led Congress is to impose \$14.5 billion in deeper budget cuts in student aid. How does that add up?

REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES DEMAND SACRIFICE OF THE MANY, PROVIDE ENRICHMENT OF THE FEW

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, the Republican budget bill is not a document of our Nation's priorities. The Republicans are not listening to the needs of average Americans who want a fair budget and lower deficits.

Here are 10 quick reasons why this mean-spirited bill should be defeated this week. First, it takes from the poor and middle class to make the rich richer. Second, it includes the largest cuts in student loans in history. Third, it provides a \$24 billion windfall to delinquent dads. Fourth, it destroys the pristine Arctic refuge and endangers our coastline.

Fifth, it worsens America's health status by cutting Medicaid by \$12 billion. Sixth, it cuts safety-net funding for our most vulnerable children. Seventh, it takes school lunches away from 40,000 kids who desperately need the nutritional content that those lunches provide. Eighth, it fails to adequately fund vital support services for workers. Ninth, it adds insult to injury for farmers in the form of commodity cuts. And tenth, despite all these cuts, it still swells the deficit. And I stress, it still swells the deficit.

FISCAL FANTASY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I was listening to some of this hysteria and rhetoric from the Democrat Party, and I wonder sometimes if they actually believe what their speech writers apparently give them. Obviously, they do not read it before they start giving the speech because they know food stamps are going up \$250 million. It is not a cut. Medicaid is going up \$66 billion. That is not a cut. Medicaid goes up 7 percent instead of 7.3 percent. That is what you need to be saying; we think it should be going up more than you guys, but admit, as we all know, Medicaid is going up 7 percent, \$66 billion.

Yet in Washington, D.C., just like Disney World, there is a lot of fantasy around us. And the fantasy is that if

you do not get the increase that you want, you can go out and have the New York Times and Washington Post say, yes, he is right, that is a cut because they are not going up 7.3 percent, they are going up 7 percent. We have a plan to reform government and create savings. Yesterday, the Democrat Party announced they would have no agenda for 2005. Well, surprise, surprise. It is only November. But when is the Democrat Party going to announce its alternative? I will ask that question. I hope somebody will answer.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

(Mr. BISHOP of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, a rose by any other name smells just as sweet. And dung by any other name stinks just as much. A stinking bill that cuts spending for Medicaid, food stamps, student loans, foster care, child support, school lunches, and senior care by \$54 billion and then cuts revenue taxes for folks earning \$300,000 or more by \$70 billion still leaves a stinking deficit of \$16 billion. Add \$7.1 billion for the cost of the President's flu initiative and \$200 billion for gulf coast reconstruction and that grows to \$223 billion.

This Republican reconciliation package is misnamed. It is actually a sham. Republicans have rejected the Blue Dog 12-point plan to cut deficit spending and now want to fool the American people. Madam Speaker, you can dress up a pig and call it a lady, but it is still a stinking pig. You can dress up a sham and call it deficit reduction; but it still says oink, oink, still stinks and is still a lie.

REPUBLICAN CUTS TO FOOD STAMPS

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republican cuts to food stamps under this reconciliation budget, an incredible total loss of \$844 million, \$844 million that comes directly from people in this country who are struggling to feed themselves and their families; \$844 million from people who can least afford such a drastic cut. And once again, immigrant families are being treated particularly inhumanely by this Republican plan.

And let me be clear. We are talking about denying assistance to legal permanent residents, immigrants who play by the rules, support our communities, and serve in our military; immigrants who sacrifice so much to come here; immigrants who are frequently among the most vocal supporters of America and the American Dream. Under the Republican plan, 70,000 legal immigrant households will be denied food stamps for an extra 5 years.